

REMARKS

As stated above, this Submission Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.114 is being filed subsequent to a Final Office Action and in support of the Request for Continued Examination (“RCE”) (37 C.F.R. §1.114) which is filed concurrently herewith.

Entry of this Submission is respectfully requested prior to further examination on the merits and Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

CLAIM STATUS

Claims 1-43 are pending in the application and are rejected. Of these claims, claims 1 and 19 are independent in form. Claims 1, 4-6, 10-19, 22-24, 28-30, 33-35, 40 and 41. No new matter is presented.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-43 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,385,621 to Frisina (“Frisina”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,767,848 to Matsuzaki et al. (“Matsuzaki”). (See Office Action, ¶4.) Applicants respectfully traverse the stated rejections as follows.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner in attributing the elements of the claimed invention to Frisina and Matsuzaki as stated in the pending rejections and believe that the claimed elements are not found in the cited prior art references taken separately or combined.

Nonetheless, in the amendments herein presented, Applicants seek to further clarify the claimed invention by additionally reciting a storage unit for storing a graphic file. By way of illustrative example, the second storage unit represents the master file 2805 (shown in

e.g., Figs. 4 and 28), and Fig. 4 shows the graphic file 120 in the master file. The link between the work standard and the graphic file is described, for example, in Fig. 89, and page 32, line 4 to page 35, line 11 of the application as filed.

It is an advantageous aspect of the present invention, to store a graphic file for a work standard since a graphical image makes it easier for a user to visually check the procedure of the work standard, as well as the fact that the graphic file corresponding to each work standard can be repeatedly used as long as the target work standards to be performed correspond to the same work standard. Furthermore, only a link to the graphic file needs to be stored for each target work standard, preserving storage capacity because the data amount (e.g., size) of the link is much lighter than that of the corresponding graphic file.

The Examiner contends in Page 3 of the Office Action that Frisina discloses setting means for setting a link to a graphic file of an image graphically showing a procedure of the work standard corresponding to a matching target work standard. Applicants respectfully submit that Frisina does not even teach graphically showing a procedure of any operation, and that, a fortiori, it stands to reason that Frisina does not teach or suggest setting means to set a link to a graphic file, nor manhour file means for storing a file of manhours and the links of target work standards. Moreover, it is clear that Frisina does not disclose the storage unit which stores a graphic file of an image for graphically showing a procedure of any operation.

Matsuzaki, on the other hand, is also silent about storing a graphic file of an image for graphically showing a procedure of a work standard.

Accordingly, as neither of Frisina nor Matsuzaki, taken alone or in combination, teach or suggests graphically showing an operation of a target work standard to be performed, or storing a graphic file of an image graphically showing a procedure of a work standard, or setting

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and storing a link to the graphic file as recited in independent claims 1 and 19, the present invention as recited in these claims is believed patentable for at least these reasons.

Dependent Claims

Applicants have not independently addressed the rejections of the dependent claims because, as the independent claims from which the dependent claims depend are allowable for at least the reasons discussed *supra*, the dependent claims are believed allowable for at least similar reasons. Applicants however, reserve the right to address such rejections should such response be necessary and appropriate.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the invention as recited in claims 1-43 as amended herein is neither anticipated by, nor rendered obvious in view of, the cited references Frisina and/or Matsuzaki, taken individually or in combination, and respectfully request that the rejections in view thereof, be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1-43 as herein presented are allowable over the prior art of record and that the application hereby placed in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

Applicants believe no fees are required for this paper and that no extension of time is required. However, should an extension of time be necessary to render this filing timely, such is hereby petitioned, and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this paper, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4671.

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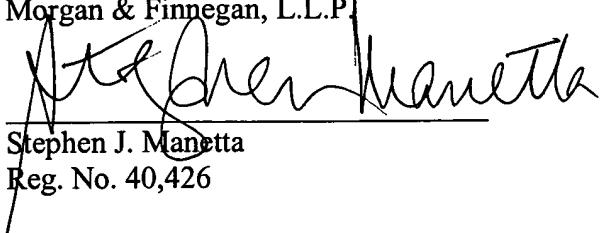
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In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

Dated: April 30, 2004

By:

Respectfully submitted,
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